

Claim Amendments

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method of displaying information for a user that is operating a client computer, the method comprising the acts of:

(a) displaying a first document in a web browser window on a display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the first document has a resource identifier associated with it and is retrieved over a network from a first web server using HTTP protocol, wherein the first document is a hypertext document that includes graphical display elements and also includes links to linked documents, and wherein the first document is published by a first online merchant and provides information about a first item that is available for purchase from the first online merchant;

(b) detecting that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

(c) upon detecting that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activating a competitive information display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the competitive information display element is not part of or embedded into the first document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the competitive information display element signifies that competitive information relating to the first online merchant is likely available, and wherein the competitive information display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen;

(d) monitoring the user's selection of the activated competitive information display element;

(e) detecting that the user wishes to display a document from a second online merchant;

(f) displaying a second document in a web browser window on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the second document has a resource identifier associated with it and is retrieved over a network from a second web server using HTTP protocol, wherein the second document is a hypertext document that includes graphical display

elements and also includes links to linked documents, and wherein the second document is published by the second online merchant and provides information about a second item that is available for purchase from the second online merchant;

(g) detecting that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

(h) upon detecting that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activating the competitive information display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the competitive information display element is not part of or embedded into the second document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the competitive information display element signifies that competitive information relating to the second online merchant is likely available, and wherein the competitive information display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen;

(i) monitoring the user's selection of the activated competitive information display element;

(j) detecting that the user has selected the activated competitive information display element; and

(k) upon detecting that the user has selected the activated competitive information display element, displaying a competitive information document, wherein the competitive information document is retrieved by the client computer over the network from a competitive information server that is not related to the first server or the second server, and wherein the competitive information document includes at least one link to a linked document.

7. (Previously Presented) A client computer that is operated by a user, wherein the client computer is programmed to:

display a first document in a web browser window on a display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the first document has a resource identifier associated with it and is retrieved over a network from a first web server using HTTP protocol, wherein the first document is a hypertext document that includes graphical display elements and also includes

links to linked documents, and wherein the first document is published by a first online merchant and provides information about a first item that is available for purchase from the first online merchant;

detect that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

upon detecting that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activate a competitive information display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the competitive information display element is not part of or embedded into the first document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the competitive information display element signifies that competitive information relating to the first online merchant is likely available, and wherein the competitive information display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the first online merchant is being displayed on the display screen;

monitor the user's selection of the activated competitive information display element;

detect that the user wishes to display a document from a second online merchant;

display a second document in a web browser window on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the second document has a resource identifier associated with it and is retrieved over a network from a second web server using HTTP protocol, wherein the second document is a hypertext document that includes graphical display elements and also includes links to linked documents, and wherein the second document is published by the second online merchant and provides information about a second item that is available for purchase from the second online merchant;

detect that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

upon detecting that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activate the competitive information display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the competitive information display element is not part of or embedded into the second document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the

competitive information display element signifies that competitive information relating to the second online merchant is likely available, and wherein the competitive information display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the second online merchant is being displayed on the display screen;

monitor the user's selection of the activated competitive information display element;

detect that the user has selected the activated competitive information display element;

and

upon detecting that the user has selected the activated competitive information display element, display a competitive information document, wherein the competitive information document is retrieved by the client computer over the network from a competitive information server that is not related to the first server or the second server, and wherein the competitive information document includes at least one link to a linked document.

8. (New) A method of displaying information for a user that is operating a client computer, the method comprising the acts of:

(a) displaying a first document in a web browser window on a display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the first document is retrieved over a network from a first server, wherein the first document includes links to linked documents, and wherein the first document is published by a publisher and provides information about a topic of interest;

(b) detecting that a document published by the publisher is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

(c) upon detecting that a document published by the publisher is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activating a display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the display element is not part of or embedded into the first document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the display element signifies that information relating to the publisher is likely available, and wherein the display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the publisher is being displayed on the display screen;

(d) monitoring the user's selection of the display element;

(e) detecting that the user has selected the display element; and

(f) upon detecting that the user has selected the display element, displaying a second document, wherein the second document is retrieved by the client computer over the network from a second server that is not related to the first server, wherein the second document includes at least one link to a linked document, and wherein the second document includes information relating to the publisher but not created by the publisher.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising the acts of:

(g) displaying a third document in a web browser window on a display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the third document is retrieved over a network from a third server, wherein the third document includes links to linked documents, and wherein the third document is published by an online merchant and provides information about an item that is available for purchase from the online merchant;

(h) detecting that a document published by the online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer;

(i) upon detecting that a document published by the online merchant is being displayed on the display screen associated with the client computer, automatically activating the display element on the display screen associated with the client computer, wherein the display element is not part of or embedded into the third document that is displayed in the web browser window, wherein the activation of the display element signifies that information relating to the online merchant is likely available, and wherein the display element is activated in response to detecting that a document published by the online merchant is being displayed on the display screen;

(j) monitoring the user's selection of the display element;

(k) detecting that the user has selected the display element; and

(l) upon detecting that the user has selected the display element, displaying a fourth document, wherein the fourth document is retrieved by the client computer over the network from the second server, wherein the fourth document includes at least one link to a linked document, and wherein the fourth document includes information relating to the online merchant.